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Smart Communities

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Smart Communities

What is it?

Canada is a world leader in telecommunications technology and information accessibility. Yet Canada also needs to develop and showcase how information and communications technologies can provide services and applications that improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of Canadian communities.

Who's Involved?

In order to help accelerate the benefits that Canadians can realize from information technologies, the Government of Canada created a blue ribbon panel of experts to advise on how Canada can take a leading role in developing "smart communities." Upon the panel's recommendations, the government has committed to establishing a Smart Community Demonstration Project in each province, the North and an Aboriginal community by the year 2000.

The federal government envisions Smart Communities as communities that use information technology in new and innovative ways to empower their residents, institutions and region as a whole. Smart Communities make the most of the opportunities that new technologies afford — for better health care delivery, for better education and training, and for growing businesses.

How Does it Work?

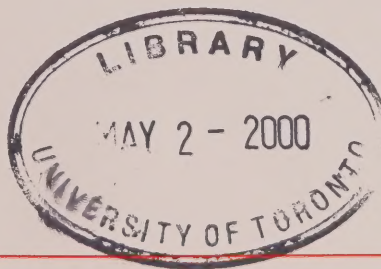
Smart Communities have the potential to:

- ✎ help people harness the power of information and communications technologies and thereby develop the skills needed to prosper in the knowledge-based economy, improve their quality of life and strengthen their culture

- ✎ stimulate economic growth by helping individuals and businesses become more adaptive, cooperative and better linked to the world
- ✎ improve access to, and improve the quality of, health care information and services
- ✎ improve quality and availability of education for people of all ages in all levels of society
- ✎ give all citizens a greater say in issues of governance
- ✎ collaborate with other levels of government to serve communities and our country more effectively
- ✎ advance the state of environmental awareness, monitoring and protection
- ✎ attract high-tech investment and businesses to their region.

Participating in the international Smart Communities movement is an opportunity to show how community-led, information-based economic, social and cultural development can change the way Canada develops its communities and builds a stronger nation. The Smart Communities movement represents an opportunity for Canadians to acquire the skills and tools that will enable them to prosper in the global, knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

For more information, please contact:
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Web site: <http://smartcommunities.ic.gc.ca>





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